

THE ARGUS.

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Tuesday, August 18, 1914.

A Word From Tavenner, The Man on the Job

To the voters of the Fourteenth Congressional District:

As your congressman, I have been on the job every minute, answering practically every roll call.

I have endeavored to conscientiously serve my district and my party, so that the voters who elected me would not have to apologize for having done so.

I am now a candidate for renomination, subject to the will of the democratic voters to be expressed at the primaries on Sept. 9th, and will deeply appreciate it if you will take care of my interests while I remain here at my post of duty and take care of yours, which it is my duty to do, especially in view of present existing conditions throughout the world, which may at any moment require emergency legislation for the welfare of our own country. Under these unusual circumstances, I will be especially grateful for any acts of my friends in my behalf.

CLYDE H. TAVENNER,
U. S. Capitol,
Washington, D. C.

The peace societies are having a hard time of it trying to take a philosophical view of the situation.

Little nations with bones to pick seem disposed to do their picking now while the big ones are busy with their own affairs.

China's declaration of neutrality would have more weight if it were not necessary to call upon other nations to enforce it.

Bulgaria has proclaimed a state of siege, which doubtless will be sufficient to at least justify a little target practice along the borders.

During the last half of July the number of surplus freight cars on railroad lines in the United States and Canada was reduced nearly 3,000. War had nothing to do with this.

The rigors of war have not missed the politicians who have been attacking the present national administration and who, having their ammunition exhausted, have retired in disorder.

Viewed at this distance, it seems strange that it never before occurred to the Russian government to make those fair promises to Poland. Evidently the lesson taught by the Jap was only partly learned.

Some consolation may be drawn by those of us who are not growers by the fact that wheat prices are coming down. Wheat, like the hominy which furnished sole subsistence for the negro, is also "pow'ful nourishin'."

About the only real satisfaction the war correspondents have been getting so far has come from relating their personal experiences, and if the men who are doing the fighting are having half as hard a time of it as the scribes claim to be having, the war must indeed be frightful.

ROAD LEGISLATION TANGLE.

To bring about revision of state road laws along lines that will insure simplicity, efficient management, and, where desirable, uniformity, is the task undertaken by a special joint committee appointed at the third American road congress and representing the American Bar association and the American Highway association. The magnitude and technical difficulties of the undertaking are discussed in an article prepared for the Engineering Record by J. E. Pennybacker, chief of the division of road economics of the U. S. office of public roads.

Between three and four million words comprise existing road legislation in the several states, according to the estimate of officials in the office of public roads. This great wilderness of words would make up an edition of thirty fair-sized volumes. In view of the comparative simplicity of the subject, this vast accumulation of statutes, according to Mr. Pennybacker, is a scathing commentary on the constructive statesmanship of our legislators for many generations. There is scarcely a doubt that at least 55 per cent of the legislation is superfluous, and that, entirely aside from the mat-

ter of reform, exactly the same purpose contemplated in the existing legislation could be accomplished with greater effectiveness with one-eighth of the existing statute laws.

The compilers have found legislation still in effect almost identical as to form and substance with the old Colonial road laws, which were in turn based upon English precedent, extending back to the time of Queen Elizabeth; they have found statutes so hopelessly in conflict as to make efficient and responsible administration utterly impossible. As an example of the bewildering confusion of existing legislation, the compilers came across in the statutes of one of our most progressive states a recent enactment amending a road law which was repealed two years before the amendment was passed, and yet apparently none of the legislators has thus far become acquainted with the situation.

LOANING FUNDS FOR WAR.

Nothing he has done has more clearly shown the stamp of good sense and good statesmanship than President Wilson's declaration against the loaning of American funds to the warring nations. The moment any considerable sum of money from the United States is furnished to any one of the contending powers neutrality will go by the board, because the return of principal and interest must depend to a large extent upon the success of the borrowing nation. With American capital invested in the enterprise of warring nations, it would necessarily be partisan and the difficulties of the government in maintaining an impartial attitude would become much more serious.

But violation of neutrality is not the only reason against making such loans now. All available American capital is needed in developing our means of commerce and to manufacture the commodities heretofore supplied from abroad and of which the war has deprived us. In the long run investment along these lines will be much more certain of giving returns than loaning funds to belligerent nations, however alluring the promised rate of interest.

DEBT OF LARGER CITIES.

In the report of financial statistics of cities for 1912, recently issued by Director William J. Harris, of the bureau of the census, department of commerce, the total gross debt for 195 cities having a population of 30,000 and over was \$2,835,464,028, with a per capita of \$91.71.

Of the total indebtedness, \$2,558,548,547 was funded and floating, while the remainder, \$276,915,481, was classed as current and comprised special assessment bonds and certificates, revenue bonds and notes, warrants, and obligations on account of trusts. As the current debt is usually offset by cash on hand and uncollected revenues, the bureau arrives at the net debt by deducting from the total of the funded and floating debt the assets held in sinking funds. These assets amounted to \$542,948,527, leaving a net indebtedness for the 195 cities of \$2,015,509,026, or \$68.74 per capita.

A significant fact brought out in the report is that per capita indebtedness increases with the size of the cities. Individual cities may show the widest divergence from this general rule, the per capita net indebtedness of Chicago, the second city in size, being 13 per cent less than that of Council Bluffs, Iowa, the smallest of the 195 cities reported. Eight cities showed a net indebtedness of less than \$10, namely, Denver, Col., Erie, Pa., Peoria, Ill., Johnston, Pa., Springfield, Mo., Joliet, Ill., Decatur, Ill., and Lansing, Mich.

The report also classifies the debt of the 195 cities as incurred for general departments and municipal service enterprises and for public service enterprises and investments. Of the total debt, 70.3 per cent was incurred for general purposes and 29.7 per cent for public service enterprises and investments.

The total valuation of departmental properties, including land, buildings, and equipment, was \$2,136,824,829, while the gross debt incurred for these purposes amounted to \$1,992,200,013, making a ratio of debt to valuation of 93.2. The debt incurred for public service enterprises was \$843,264,015, which constitutes a ratio of 69.4 to their valuation of \$1,214,744,357. The cities with the greater indebtedness for public service enterprises and investments were New York, N. Y., Philadelphia, Pa., Boston, Mass., Baltimore, Md., Cincinnati, Ohio, and Los Angeles, Cal. The ratio between the debt incurred for water-supply systems and the total value of such systems is of special interest. These systems were valued at \$909,604,279 in 1912. For these properties the report shows a funded debt of \$475,544,000, or 52.3 per cent of the valuation.

Of the 195 cities covered by this report, 117 cities show an increase in net debt during the year amounting to \$144,050,422, and 77 cities show a decrease in debt amounting to \$10,009,075, one city reporting the same debt at the close of 1911 and 1912. A tabulation of the total and per capita net indebtedness of the nation, of the 146 cities for which comparative data are available for the period from 1902 to 1912, and of New York city, for which the figures are more striking than those of the nation or for the 146 cities taken as a whole, shows that municipal indebtedness not only is much greater than national indebtedness, but is rapidly increasing, while that of the nation is remaining practically stationary.

While the per capita net debt of the nation decreased from \$12.24 in 1902 to \$10.77 in 1912, that of the 146 cities reported annually by the bureau of the census during that period increased from \$44.19 in 1912, and that of New York City increased from \$76.45 in 1902 to \$156.57 in 1912.

An exhaustive survey of paying and electric lighting problems in Iowa cities is being made by the extension division of the Iowa state university.

Capital Comment

BY CLYDE H. TAVENNER

Congressman from the Fourteenth District.

(Special Correspondence of The Argus.)

Washington, D. C., Aug. 16.—The most critical period of American history since the Civil war finds in the



CLYDE H. TAVENNER

White house the man who is competent to guide the ship of state through the troubled waters. Providence is still watching the destiny of this great republic. When the strife broke out between the states there was Abraham Lincoln. And now when war is threatening to engulf the whole earth, and only the wisest counsel can bring the United States safely through to the great destiny that seems to be hers for the reaching, in the White house we have Woodrow Wilson, who will rank with Abraham Lincoln in the histories of the future.

President Wilson's great ability was never better shown than just at the outbreak of the present European war. That was a period when the world was ringing with the blustering proclamations and boastful utterances of the European monarchs. In the midst of the shouting of kings there was heard a quiet, commanding note, phrased in the most terse and clear of language. It was the offer of President Wilson to mediate in the European trouble.

Compared with that utterance the boisterous statements of the warring emperors sounded like the efforts of high school sophomores. It showed that the United States in Woodrow Wilson has a chief executive who dwarfs in ability the reigning heads of the European nations. In the White house we have the brain and courage that may safely be trusted by the people in the critical times ahead.

And they will be critical times. The whole earth cannot engage in desperate war, destroying utterly billions of wealth which patient industry has been generations in amassing, without having a severe effect upon the for-

tunes of the few noncombatants among the nations.

Just to mention two of the possible dangers—that of being involved in the war itself; and that of being disastrously involved in the financial crash that is bound to overtake Europe if that war is continued to the bitter end. If we can avoid both of these dangers, the destiny of America in the near future will be something undreamed of until the present moment. Upon Woodrow Wilson will devolve the mighty task of preserving the nation.

Should Europe utterly exhaust herself—her lives and resources—in the present struggle, there is nothing ahead of her but bankruptcy. The bankruptcy of Europe would put a financial strain upon the United States that would be well-nigh unbearable. If European currency, for instance, were impaired, there would be a rush to exchange American securities owned abroad for American gold. The American gold supply is entirely inadequate to meet such a demand.

The glittering prize held out to the United States is the foreign trade formerly held by the manufacturing nations of Europe. It is the underlying cause of the present war—the bone over which the foreign war-dogs are fighting. And the lean hound on this side of the ocean is preparing to escape with that bone while the others are fighting.

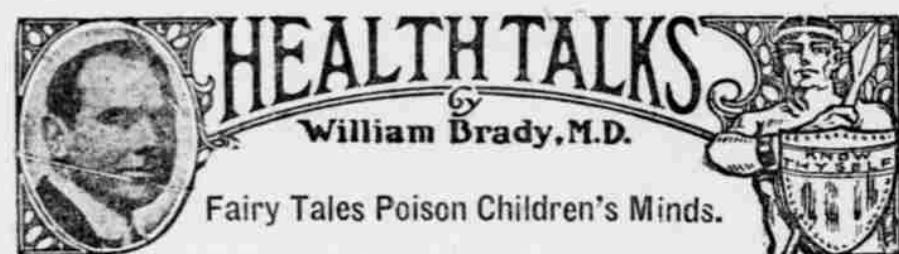
There is a possibility that Germany or any other European nation, seeing America preparing to monopolize the foreign trade for which they are fighting with bullet and bayonet, might deliberately attempt to involve the United States in the war. This would effectually prevent us from seizing the trade. The ease with which such a course might be followed is shown in the recent incident regarding the location of a German wireless station in Long Island.

The prize is a glittering one if we can thread the rapids and gain the still water ahead. Such prosperity as never before was known awaits us there. In the White house sits our pilot and guide. He is borne down with care. There is a new, great grief for him to bear, but his courage is still unflinching. The best of life has gone for him, but spurred by the responsibility of his office, by the knowledge that the faith of the people is in him, with squared shoulders he faces the future unafraid.

Reproducing Images by Electricity

An experimental device has been constructed recently for reproducing images which have been received as electrical impulses. The apparatus, according to the Electrical World, resembles a miniature floor in appearance, being about the size of a cabinet photograph and consisting of more than 5,000 minute metal blocks fitted closely together, but insulated from each other. If a thin sheet of liquid is permitted to flow over one face of this panel and current is allowed to flow from the blocks to the

liquid their surfaces will become luminous. By permitting electricity to flow through the blocks at different rates, varying intensities of luminosity can be obtained. Each unit composing the panel can be rendered luminous separately or in any sequence desired. Changes in luminosity can be made at the rate of several hundred times per second. By energizing the metal blocks in the proper order and sequences it is, therefore, possible to reproduce images in motion by transmitting the electrical impulses over wires.



Censorship of moving picture films is carried out particularly for the welfare of children. No matter what may be the influence of suggestive scenes upon the mature mind, we all know the harm of immoral suggestion upon the impressionable mind of the young child.

Fairy tales have always been considered a legitimate and elevating form of entertainment for children. Some of the stories written by Andersen, the Grimms and other noted authors are classics. Bluebeard, Little Red Riding Hood, Golden-Locks and the Three Bears, Beauty and the Beast—who would think that such ancient fireside stories could injure a child's mind?

Don't Be Bound By Tradition. Because a thing is old and long established is no good reason for saying it isn't wrong. Our ancestors found fairy tales almost indispensable, for want of books. Today we have plenty of truthful and interesting stories for young children. We need not draw on the sickly and distorted imagination of our classic fairy tale writers. One will find that nothing amuses the children so much as story-telling time as a rehearsal of simple incidents from one's own childhood experience, or incidents which might happen to anybody in real life.

Professor Freud, the famous medical psychologist, and other authorities in the field of nervous and mental disease, have shown how impressions made upon the childish mind by fairy tales tend to stimulate abnormal thoughts. In many cases, these specialists find that erotic and neurotic symptoms are directly traceable to suggestions originating in fairy stories heard at the mother's knee.

Nourish the Child Minds with Good Stories.

Why should we feed the immature mind on yarns in which murders and beheadings and cruelties of all kinds are practiced without regard for human life or for the consequences of criminality? What is the difference between a nasty film in a movie show or a "blood and thunder" dime novel or a pandering story from a

popular magazine, and the evil, suggestive thoughts engendered in the child's mind by a Bluebeard recital or any other portrayal of wickedness?

Consign the fairy stories to the furnace flames and nourish the children's mind with true nature stories or pictures of real life. They will have sweeter dreams—especially sweeter day-dreams.

Questions and Answers. Reply to Z.

A fibroid tumor is not malignant in character. That is, does not poison the system as a cancer does, but it may seriously affect the health in other ways. Hundreds of women have fibroids and do not know it.

Student inquires: Can one get consumption from playing football? Reply.

No. T. C. asks: Under what circumstances is acute indigestion fatal? Reply.

"Acute indigestion" is fatal when the doctors can't tell what the patient died of.

Miss J. H. L. writes: Is pneumonia catching? Reply.

Yes. It is a reportable disease in many cities.

Leonora asks: Please state your opinion of the tango. Reply.

Being old-fashioned, I think it is a fine dance for other peoples' daughters and wives.

Mrs. O. C. F. writes: Will you kindly mention what kind of soap is best for a baby's first bath? Reply.

None. Olive oil should be used.

A. S. inquires: Does goitre affect the heart so that it beats rapidly and forcibly with slight excitement? Reply.

One kind of goitre (called "exophthalmic" goitre, because of the prominence of the eyeballs) seriously affects the heart.

The ONLOOKER

HENRY HOWLAND



I longed to journey far away
Yesterday
The lofty walls looked dull and brown.
In the town;
I yearned to leave the clang and roar,
I wished to hark upon some shore
Where the sea
Calm and still and blue, might spread,
While the bright sun overhead,
Beamed on me.

Yesterday my heart was sad,
Now it's glad;
Yesterday I looked ahead,
There was nothing here that cheered,
Every sign I saw appeared
To oppress;
Though the traffic ever streamed
Through the noisy streets, it seemed
Profitless.

Now the city seems sublime,
There's a chime
In the clanging of the gongs,
And the wrongs
That intruded everywhere,
Are no more, the scene is fair,
That was mean;
All the walls are grand and white,
And the future stretches bright
And serene.

Ah, mayhap if you are wise,
You surmise
That a lady fair to see
Smiles on me,
That she glorifies the town
Which was mean and drear and brown.
Yesterday;
But your guess would not be right;
I have just obtained a slight
Raise of pay.

To Be Seriously Considered.
"So you want to marry my daughter, do you?"

"Yes, we have thought it all over soberly and sanely, and it has been decided by us that neither can live without the other."

"H-m. I have looked up your record, and I haven't any fault to find with the past you have succeeded in furnishing for yourself, but will you be able to pay the fines for exceeding the speed limit that my daughter has been accustomed to?"

CAUSE OF THE ESTRANGEMENT.

"Is it proper," she asked, "for a wife to call her husband's helpmeet or his helpmate?"
"Well," he replied, "I can't see how it will be proper for her to call herself either if she wears a hobble skirt and tries to support her family on her earnings."

The next day he applied to the landlord for the privilege of subletting their flat.

As He Understood It.
"Why is it," asked the ambitious young orator, complaining to the editor of the morning paper, "that you always report me as having said, 'among other things'?"

"Well, as I understand it, you are usually among other things when you say them."

Empty Lives.
"Some people seem to be able to get through the world with very little trouble."

"I know it. There are lots of people who never have anything more important than love and marriage and births and deaths to think of."

Evanescent Joy.
I met her in a crowd;
She sweetly smiled at me;
I felt extremely proud,
For she was good to me.

Alas, my gladness died
Almost ere it began;
I heard her ask (aside):
"Who is that nice old man?"

The Secret.
"What is the secret of her popularity with the men? She isn't beautiful, and I shouldn't call her unusually bright."

"I think it must be due to her habit of going to the edge of propriety and leaning over."

Practically.
"And she refused you?"
"Practically. She said she would marry me as soon as I settled down and went to work at something worth while."

Miss Nellie Carlin of Chicago has announced her candidacy for the municipal judgeship and expects the democratic endorsement. The court deals chiefly with matters pertaining to women and children.

New York must pay \$223,129.121 for all its existing and planned subways.

The Daily Story

Stiletto or Passport?—By Burke Jenkins.

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Nick's little back room on the ground floor was our customary meeting place. Here we came together in the equality of true democracy. There have been evenings when eleven or twelve different professions of our throbbing metropolises were represented about Nick's little three-legged table.

This evening attentive ears were turned toward Carusworthy, the opulent. That gentleman busied himself for a moment with a seltzer siphon. "Yes," he commented, "I rather believe in secret societies, fraternities, brotherhoods or whatever you choose to call 'em—that is, some of them."

He lounged into an easier attitude. "It happened down in Mexico in the state of Chihuahua—little, old, driedup

"He disappeared into the shack and returned a minute later. 'Extremely sorry, senator, but the telegraph office is closed.'"

"I didn't believe him, so I pushed my own way into the house and confronted a sleepy operator. 'The line is closed,' snapped that worthy before I could say a word.

"For some reason these two were in collusion against me. The why of it I couldn't fathom. The apothecary had apparently tipped this fellow off to what I couldn't imagine.

"Accordingly, in distinct chagrin, I left the two and strode off into the night to think my situation over.

"But I had never been a man to look too long on the wrong side of a cloud, so it didn't take a great while for me to catch a glint of the silver lining.

"And this glint could almost be said to be a glint in very fact, for as I rambled around those tangled streets of that little old town I became aware of a gleam of light upon a hill just without the village limits.

"To add to the cheer, from time to time I caught the sound of music.

"Now, I have never been characterized by bashfulness, so, carried away perhaps by the entire incongruity of my whole evening thus far, I decided to add to it, and I headed for the scene of merriment, the grand house on the hill.

"I entered from a balcony unobserved, for the dance was in full swing, and I'm here to state that when a Spaniard dances he puts all that's in him in it. As for the señoritas I'm silent, for words fall on occasion.

"So I will attempt no description of that little woman who sat somewhat apart from the dancers, eagerness written all over her. 'Of course she must dance!' I stated emphatically to myself. 'What in the world can these fellows mean by leaving her for a wallflower?'

"Without further thought I trotted up to her and asked for the dance. At first she looked up in alarm; then, the spirit of coquetry conquering, she merely glanced down the hall before she rose and took my arm.

"When the dance ended I led the pretty señorita onto the balcony, where I had observed tables for refreshments.

"Seated vis-a-vis we continued the frothy conversation we had begun inside. As we chatted I looked up at her. Her gaze had left me and was fastened with frozen fear on something behind my back.

"I glanced up quickly, for something glinted above me. It was a pretty bit of a stiletto, and I could even note the arm that wielded it. There, attached to the tender skin of the under forearm, was the device of a brotherhood. I belonged to that order myself.

"But no time was there for an interchange of signals. I reached a quick hand and caught the wrist above me. Then I shoved forward, bringing my assailant with one lunge on to my back, and, with the impetus of my vigorous resistance, over the balcony rail we both went, landing in the shrubbery. I fell on top.

"The fellow was not seriously hurt, but without much trouble I wrested the jeweled weapon from his grasp, and as he recovered from the shock of the fall I leaned toward him and whispered something in his ear.

"His entire attitude changed, and in spite of his bruises he jumped to his feet and called to the anxious faces that peered from the balcony down into our darkness in the shrubbery: 'It's all right, friends. I have made a mistake. Nobody hurt!'

"And then he explained matters to me. He was the son of Don Rodriguez, chief man of that region, and had had the misfortune to be ignorant of the views of the United States in such matters as the too free use of knife or revolver. It seems he had been forced to track an enemy to New York, and there, ignorant of our viewpoint and caring little, he had found him and knifed him after the most approved Castilian style.

"It had all been about that very girl I had just danced with too. Now, the friends of the murdered man had even gone so far as to get out extradition papers, and it had been rumored that detectives had set out for the border.

"Then you took me for a detective looking for you? I asked, beginning to comprehend.

"Exactly," he answered, "and Pedro the apothecary, my good friend, thought so too. It didn't help matters, either, he went on, with a half smile, 'when I returned from Pedro to find you dancing with my partner!'

"Well, there is little more to add gentlemen, except that for two days until my car returned, that populace turned itself loose doing nice things to me. But I have often wondered how the real detective fared when he arrived in that tender spot. I'll bet he had his troubles."

"He did," drawled Shaw, the detective. "In fact, I had to give that case up."

Aug. 18 in American History.

1783—General Washington took informal leave of the victorious colonial army at Newburg, N. Y., to report to congress at Princeton, N. J.

1864—Battle at Fussell's Mills, or Strawberry Plains, on the James river, near Richmond, a force of Grant's army, led by General W. S. Hancock, repulsed a Confederate attack, losing 2,700 men.

1893—Professor Frederick William Crouch, composer of the music of "Kathleen Mavourneen," died; born 1808.